Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Agreement between the National Liberation Front and Tahrir al-Sham in the countryside of Aleppo
Date	31 Oct 2018
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local conflict

Syrian Conflicts (1948 -) (1976 - 2005) (2011 -)

The agreements relate to three different conflict contexts. Israel-Syria and Syria-Lebanon. The Syrian-Israeli conflict was a key factor for the Syrian intervention during the Lebanese Civil War, with Syrian-backed Palestinian Liberation Army units intervened in 1976 against the Palestinian/Leftist militias. Following a massacre at Tel al-Zaatar that year, Syria was forced to accept a ceasefire at a meeting of the Arab League. However, the Arab League also mandated an Arab Deterrence Force, consisting of mostly Syrian soldiers with token contributions from other Arab League states, thus further legitimizing the Syrian presence in Lebanon. During a second bout of fighting that began in 1989, caused by the formation of rival Lebanese regimes in East and West Beirut, the Syrian-backed regime won and in 1991 the 'Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination' was signed to legalize the Syrian occupation as a means to ensure the security of Syria. Syrian forces were forced to withdraw in 2005 following possible involvement in the assassination of Lebanon's President Hariri.

Syria-internal. In 2011, domestic upheaval following a wave of protests across the Arab World soon led to violent repression of protestors by Syrian government troops. The violence progressed steadily and by July 2011 the Free Syrian Army (FSA) was formed consisting of defected military units and new recruits. The FSA and rebel umbrella group known as the Syrian National Council represented the first attempt at coordinating rebel factions in late 2011. However, a steady influx of foreign fighters and increased sectarianism radicalised opposition groups, which relied on foreign funding. The nature of the conflict changed drastically in late 2013 as infighting among the opposition groups increased. One of the more significant developments was the split between the al-Qaeda outfits the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, ISIS), and Jabhat al-Nusra in early 2014 in addition to the intensified targeting of other rebel factions by ISIS fighters in particular, including the Kurdish Peshmerga, the FSA and other jihadist outfits. Since the summer of 2014, the conflict was further internationalized when ISIS announced the formation of an Islamic state eroding the state line between Iraq and Syria and also in mid-2015 when Russian forces intervened on behalf of the Bashar al-Assad government in Damascus.
Close
Syrian Conflicts (1948 -) (1976 - 2005) (2011 -)

Stage Ceasefire/related

Conflict nature Inter-group

Peace process Syrian Local Agreements

Parties Abu Obaida kafarhour [Signature]
al-Shiekh al-Hasan [Signature]
Abu Aseer [Signature]

Third parties	-
Description	Nine point agreement providing for a ceasefire and territorial delineation between Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and the National Front for Liberation in the western countryside of Aleppo. It also provides for the formation of a committee to investigate the killing of the two prominent leaders of Tahrir al-Sham.

Agreement document	SY_181031_Agreement between the National Liberation Front and Tahrir al-Sham in the countryside of Aleppo.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	SY_181031_Agreement between the National Liberation Front and Tahrir al-Sham in the countryside of Aleppo_AR.pdf (opens in new tab)

Local agreement properties

Process type	Informal but persistent process
Rationale	-> Local issues only; no external support mechanism; culture of signing No formally established mechanism supported the negotiation between the two armed groups. Moreover, this agreement cannot be linked to the national peace process. Indeed, both groups oppose the rule of Bashar al-Assad in Syria and reject the idea of a national negotiation to solve the conflict. Yet, it seems that both signing parties choose to solve their quarrels through agreements. Finally, this agreement is one of the several agreements signed between the two groups since August 2018 in Aleppo governorate.
Is there a documented link to a national peace process?	No
Link to national process: articulated rationale	No link to the national peace process in Syria is mentioned in the agreement, neither it can be inferred from further research. First, the agreement does not involve local governance actors; and the signing parties themselves are not official state representative. Second, all parties to the agreement reject the national peace process, as it would maintain Bashar al-Assad and the Syrian government in power.
Name of Locale	Kafr Hamra
Nature of Locale	Region
GPS Lat/Long (DD)	36.255843, 37.081561
Participant type	Local armed group
Mediator, facilitator or similar	No mention of mediator or similar

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Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)	Page 1, In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful Page 1, Praise be to God and prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of God, his family and companions, and his supporter, and after: Page 1, 3. Formation of an agreed committee to investigate the case of the killing of the two brothers Akram Khattab and Abu Trapp may Allah accept them, and hand over the suspects.
Grievance List	The agreement does not clearly mention the cause of the conflict. Yet it seems to addresses the grievances that arose from days of clashes between the National Front for Liberation and the Organization for the Liberation of the Levant. This mainly includes the killing of two brothers who were prominent leaders of the latter group in Kafr Hamra, in the western countryside of Aleppo.
Cattle rustling/ banditry	No specific mention.
Social cover	Page 1 , 3. Formation of an agreed committee to investigate the case of the killing of the two brothers Akram Khattab and Abu Trapp may Allah accept them, and hand over the suspects.